

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

I apologize for not being able to appear directly in front of the committee, however I found out about the hearing only recently, by chance and was unable to reschedule my patients. As a physician and owner of a medical spa in CT for the past 10 years, I am submitting this in support of nurses working along with physicians to safely provide esthetic laser services in CT.

- Registered Nurses are medical professionals and with the correct training and supervision of a Medical Doctor can perform non-invasive ie: non-surgical laser services.

- Laser esthetic procedures are considered non-invasive and are fully within the scope of nursing practice. Nurses in CT. routinely perform much more invasive treatments such as IV placement, catheter insertion and wound care.

- Registered Nurses provide outstanding care and are required to work under the physicians direction and tutelage with strict criteria on skin typing, physical assessment, itemized and detailed charting of laser settings, patient outcomes, patient follow-ups, discussions of contraindications, pre and post procedural instructions and in addition treating the medical complications that may occur.

- Electrolysis in our state is performed by electrologists and is more invasive than laser treatments.

- The nurses in our office are fully covered under the Medspa/MD malpractice insurance.

- The field of Esthetic Medicine has grown rapidly and as technology progresses, the world of laser cosmetic services is complex and ever changing, therefore one cannot legislate specific treatments. There are different wavelengths for laser hair removal, fractional resurfacing, ablative resurfacing, IPL or tattoo removal. In addition there are other esthetic modalities now that do not utilize laser light but can include radiofrequency or ultrasound.

- The proper training, experience and continuing education for the RN and the MD is critical to ensure safe patient care.

We in CT. can provide excellent care to our patients while providing popular and desired services. Already, we are starting to see patients who for financial reasons are turning to the internet for purchasing cosmetic supplies, going out of the state and even out of the country for their services. Legislating non-invasive laser procedures as “surgery” will have a detrimental effect on patient safety and the quality of the care that patients receive. Having well trained nurses working with physicians providing these services in our state will go a long way to establishing a safe and positive environment for our patients.

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